

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented) A system for recovering a portion of energy associated with an air separation unit for supplying oxygen rich gas to feed air of a blast furnace comprising:

an air separation unit and a blast furnace, wherein the air separation unit is fed at least partially with a first portion of a feed air to the blast furnace, wherein said first portion of feed air is mixed with additional compressed air resulting in a combined feed air stream, from which an oxygen rich product is removed from the air separation unit and mixed with a remaining portion of the blast furnace feed air and fed to the blast furnace; removing a second gas from the air separation unit and heating the second gas; and, expanding the second gas to recover energy.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The system of Claim 13 further comprising a heater, wherein the second gas is heated by heat exchange with a combustion product.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The system of Claim 13 further comprising a combustion chamber, wherein the second gas is mixed with a combustion product from the combustion chamber.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The system of Claim 13 further comprising a combustion chamber, wherein an off gas of the blast furnace is a fuel for the combustion chamber to heat the second gas.

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Claim 17 (previously presented) The system of Claim 13 further comprising a compressor, wherein additional air is compressed then mixed with the first portion.